



**PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT**

Story and Art by **Satoru Noda**



GOLDEN KAMUY

Story and Art by **Satoru Noda**



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Chapter 8: Flight

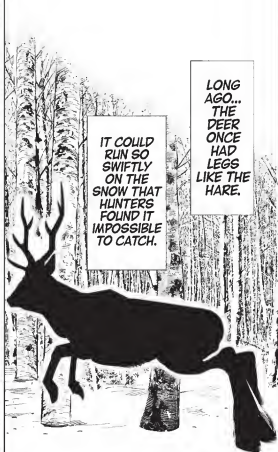




SO ONE DAY,
THE HARE
TRICKED THE
DEER INTO
TRADING LEGS
WITH IT.



REALIZING
IT HAD
BEEN
DECEIVED,
THE ANGRY
DEER
THREW A
BURNING
STICK AT
THE HARE.



IT COULD
RUN SO
SWIFTLY
ON THE
SNOW THAT
HUNTERS
FOUND IT
IMPOSSIBLE
TO CATCH.

LONG
AGO...
THE
DEER
ONCE
HAD
LEGS
LIKE THE
HARE.



SO THE
MORAL
OF THE
STORY
IS...

IF YOU
DON'T GET
GREEDY,
YOU WON'T
HAVE TO
BE ON THE
RUN...



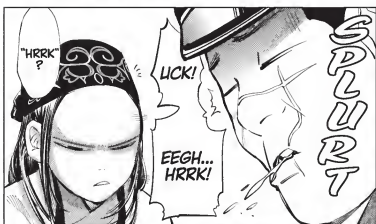
HUH...
SO IF IT
WEREN'T FOR
THE BLACK
EARS, IT
WOULD'VE
PERFECTLY
BLENDED IN
WITH THE
SNOW AND
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
CAUGHT AND
MADE INTO
CITATAP.

THE
STICK HIT
THE HARE
ON THE
EARS, AND
THEY'VE
REMAINED
BLACK TO
THIS DAY.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW
FAST YOU
CAN RUN
IF YOU
CAN BE
SPOTTED
EASILY.



WHAT KIND OF REACTION IS THAT?



*AINU WORD TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR FOOD







BUT I
BET IF YOU
ADDED
SOME MISO
IT WOULD
MAKE IT EVEN
BETTER.

ASIRPA,
THIS IS
ALREADY
REALLY
GOOD...

AHH...
IT'S
REALLY
WARMING
ME UP.
I FEEL
ALIVE
AGAIN.

WHAT'S
MISO?



WHOA!

KPOK

HERE,
LET ME
PUT
SOME
IN.



ARE YOU
MAKING
ME EAT
POOP?!
I'M NOT
EATING
THAT! NO
WAY!

SERI-
OUSLY,
IT'S NOT
POOP.
JUST
TRY IT.

IT'S
NOT
POOP.



IT'S
NOT
POOP,
IT'S
MISO.

THAT'S
POOP!



SUGI-
MOTO...
THAT'S
OSOMA,
ISN'T
IT?!

OSOMA
?

POOP!



HINNA,
HINNA!

SHUT
UP.



SLURP!

AHHH...
YOU CAN'T
GET ANY
MORE
JAPANESE
THAN
MISO.

MMM,
DELICIOUS!
JUST AS I
THOUGHT,
THEY GO
VERY WELL
TOGETHER.



DON'T
TALK
ABOUT
ME LIKE
I'M SOME
KIND OF
FREAK.

EWV! I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE'S
EATING
POOP AND
LIKING IT!



IF THERE
ARE ICICLES
AT THE MOUTH OF
THE CAVE...

...OR IF IT
SMELLS
LIKE BLOOD
AND FLESH,
THERE MAY
BE A BROWN
BEAR
INSIDE.

MOVE
IN VERY
QUIETLY,
SUGIMOTO.



BUT THEY
LIKE TO REUSE
EXISTING
ONES, IF
POSSIBLE.

BROWN
BEARS
DIG OUT
THEIR
OWN
DENS.

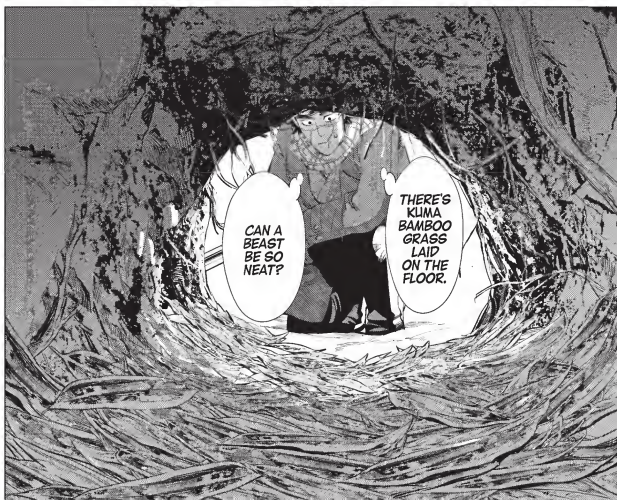
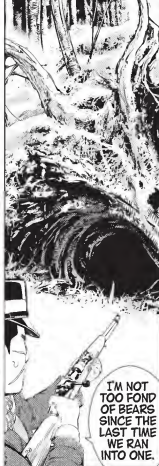
A BROWN
BEAR MIGHT
BE USING IT
AS A DEN
THIS YEAR
AS
WELL.

IF WE HEAD
DOWN THIS
WAY A BIT,
THERE'S
A CAVE
THAT'S BEEN
HOLLOWED
OUT BENEATH
THE ROOTS OF
A FALLEN
TREE.

WHAT?
WHY
ME?

IT'S
ON THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THAT
FALLEN TREE.
GO TAKE
A LOOK,
SUGIMOTO.

EXPERI-
ENCED
HUNTERS
KEEP
TRACK OF
THESE DENS
AND THEIR
LOCATIONS.





USE STAKES
TO FENCE
UP THE
ENTRANCE.

ONCE
THE BEAR
COMES TO
INVESTIGATE
AND STICKS
ITS HEAD
OUT, YOU
SHOOT A
POISONED
ARROW
THROUGH
THE STAKES.



SHOULD
WE
CATCH
IT?

AND
HOW
DO WE
DO THAT?



MIGHT
BE
ONE IN
THERE.

WELL?
HOW'D
IT LOOK?



"A BROWN
BEAR WILL
NEVER KILL
A HUMAN
THAT
ENTERS
ITS DEN."

THERE'S
AN AINU
SAID
THAT
GOES...



IT'S NOT
LIKE WE'LL
STARVE IF
WE DON'T
CATCH A
BEAR RIGHT
NOW.

WE'VE
ALREADY
GOT OUR
HANDS FULL
CHASING
DANGEROUS
CRIMINALS.

FORGET
IT!

LET'S
GET
OUT OF
HERE.



HOWEVER, MY
FATHER WAS SO
BRAVE THAT HE
WOULD CRAWL
INTO THE DEN,
CLUTCHING
A POISON
ARROW....

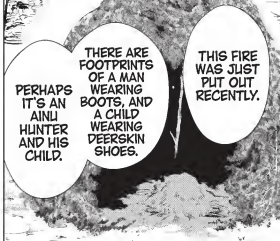
...AND KILL
THE BEAR
ALL BY
HIMSELF.





I'M GUESSING HE SIMPLY SLIPPED AND FELL ON HIS OWN.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A CAPABLE MAN LIKE SUPERIOR PRIVATE OGATA WAS TAKEN DOWN BY A HUNTER AND HIS KID... THOUGH THEY MAY KNOW SOMETHING.



PERHAPS IT'S AN AINU HUNTER AND HIS CHILD.

THERE ARE FOOTPRINTS OF A MAN WEARING BOOTS, AND A CHILD WEARING DEERSKIN SHOES.

THIS FIRE WAS JUST PUT OUT RECENTLY.



HE USED WHAT LITTLE STRENGTH HE HAD LEFT TO WRITE SOMETHING WITH HIS FINGER.

BUT HE WASN'T ABLE TO SAY MUCH WITH A BROKEN JAW.

HE MANAGED TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS FOR A SHORT TIME.

HOW'S HE DOING?



NO, I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED... HE PUSHED HIMSELF TO THE LIMIT TO TELL US SOMETHING.

HE WOULDN'T DO ALL THAT JUST TO BRAG.



MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO BOAST ABOUT BEING UNKILLABLE?

HE'S EXTREMELY LUCKY TO STILL BE ALIVE AFTER FALLING INTO A FROZEN RIVER WITH SUCH TERRIBLE INJURIES.

"IMMORTAL"





!

IF YOU
SPRINKLE
SOME SALT
ON THE
BRAIN, IT'S
PRETTY
TASTY.

DO
BROWN
BEARS
TASTE
GOOD?



WHAT
IS IT?

SUGIMOTO.
WHAT DO YOU
SUPPOSE
THAT IS?



BAD



OVER
THERE.
SOMETHING
IS
FLASHING.

FLASH



THAT'S
WHERE WE
STAYED
LAST
NIGHT.



I FOUND
THEM.

THEY'VE
SPOTTED
US AND
THEY'RE
RUNNING.

THOSE ARE
BINOCULARS!

SHIT!



DMP
DMP
DMP

DMP DMP DMP DMP



THESE SKIS
ARE KNOWN AS
KARAFUTO-
STYLE OR
RUSSIAN-
STYLE SKIS.
THE BASE OF
THE SKI IS
COVERED WITH
A LAYER OF
SEAL FUR.

THE FUR IS
ALIGNED IN SUCH
A WAY THAT
THE HAIRS
PROVIDE A STRONG
GRIP WHEN GOING
UPHILL, ALLOWING
THE SKIER TO
CLIMB SLOPES
DIRECTLY AND
WITHOUT THE
NEED TO ZIG-ZAG
UP THE HILL.



WE
LET OUR
GUARD
DOWN! WE
DIDN'T SET
TRAPS OR
ANYTHING!



THREE...
NO,
THERE
ARE FOUR
OF THEM!

HOW
MANY
ARE
THERE
?

THEY'RE
COMING
DOWN
REALLY
FAST!



THIS IS
BAD... WE'RE
LEAVING
OBVIOUS
FOOTPRINTS,
SO THERE'S
NO WAY WE
CAN LOSE
THEM.

THEY'RE
GONNA
CATCH UP!
WHAT ARE
WE GONNA
DO?!



Chapter 9: Cornered Rat

IT'LL
MAKE OUR
FOOTPRINTS
LESS OBVIOUS
AND SLOW
THEIR
PURSUIT!

SUGIMOTO!
CUT
THROUGH
THAT
THICKET OF
BAMBOO
GRASS!





ASIRPA.
LET'S
SPLIT UP.

I'M THE
ONE
THEY'RE
AFTER,
NOT YOU.

WE
CAN'T
SHAKE
THEM.

HUF HUF



HERE.
TAKE THE
TATTOOED
SKIN.

YOU
NEED TO
HOLD ON
TO IT.



IF THEY
CATCH
YOU...

THEY
WON'T
KILL A
CHILD...

DON'T
FIGHT
BACK! JUST
GIVE THEM
THE SKIN!

ACT
LIKE YOU
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON.

IF THEY
FIND IT ON
ME, THEY'LL
JUST KILL
ME ON THE
SPOT.



...



IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHO
FINDS IT!

ASIRPA,
ALL THAT
MATTERS
IS THAT
SOMEONE
FINDS THE
GOLD!

JUST
DO AS
I SAY,
GOT IT?

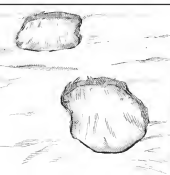


YOU BETTER
NOT BE THINKING
ABOUT FIGHTING
THEM! THEY'LL
KILL YOU FOR
SURE!

SUGIMOTO!



C'MON, I'M
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO.





THE
TRAIL
ENDS
HERE.



IT LOOKS
LIKE THE KID
DOUBLED
BACK ON HER
TRACKS.

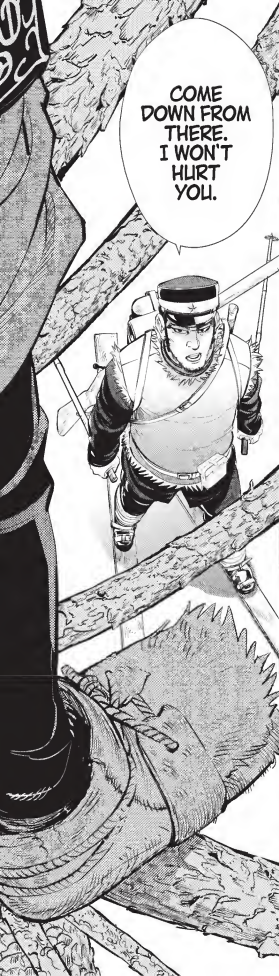
PRETTY
CLEVER.



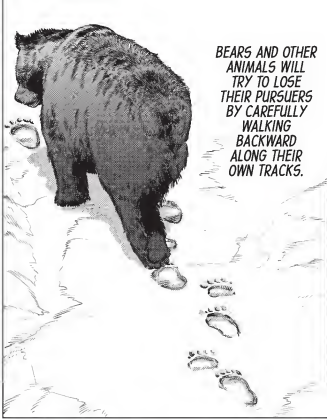
BUT I'M A
MATAGI OF
TOHOKU,
BORN AND
BRED.

I'VE SEEN
ANIMALS
DO THIS
COUNTLESS
TIMES.





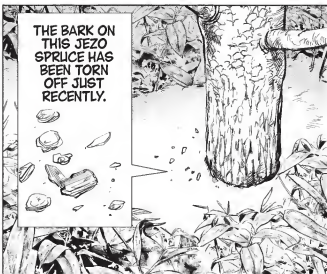
COME
DOWN FROM
THERE.
I WON'T
HURT
YOU.



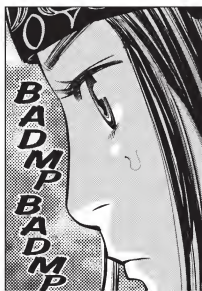
BEARS AND OTHER
ANIMALS WILL
TRY TO LOSE
THEIR PURSUERS
BY CAREFULLY
WALKING
BACKWARD
ALONG THEIR
OWN TRACKS.



THEN
THE KID
JUMPED
INTO THE
NEARBY
BAMBOO
GRASS.



THE BARK ON
THIS JEZO
SPRUCE HAS
BEEN TORN
OFF JUST
RECENTLY.





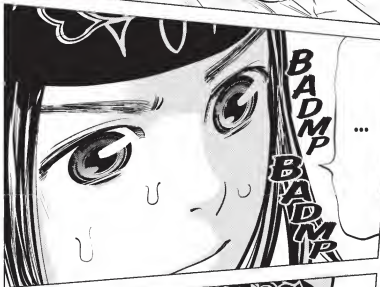
HMM, I GUESS YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ME ANYWAY.

THE MAN WITH THE ARMY CAP. WHO IS HE? IS HE YOUR BROTHER? YOUR FATHER?

OUR BUSINESS IS WITH THAT MAN, NOT YOU.

RECORDS SHOW THAT 63 AINU JOINED THE ARMY AND FOUGHT IN THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.





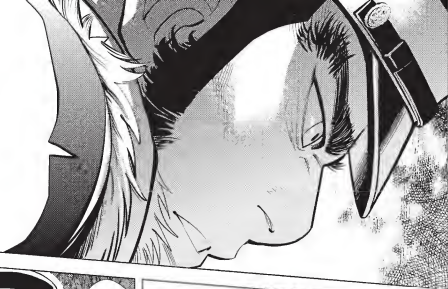
...



WHY
IS SHE
CARRYING
THIS?

WAIT...
THIS IS...

**DROP
THE
BOW.
NOW.**



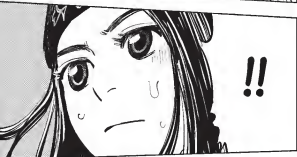
YOU DO
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT I'M
SAYING,
DON'T
YOU?

JUST
AS I
THOUGHT.

KLIK

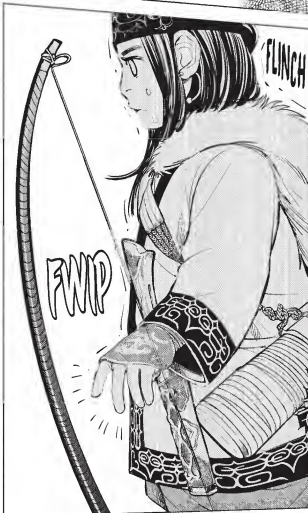


!!



FLINCH

FWIP



**DROP
THE QUIVER
AND KNIVES
TOO.**









I WAS
HUNTING
DEER...

...WITH AN
AINU KID
WHO KNOWS
THIS AREA
WELL. SHE'S
WORKING AS
MY GUIDE.

WHY?

YOU GUYS
ARE OUT
HERE TO
ARREST
POACHERS,
RIGHT?



YOU
SURE
GOT
THAT
WRONG.

H
F
F

HMM...



WAIT.
I'VE SEEN
YOUR FACE
BEFORE. AT
THE FIELD
HOSPITAL,
IN PORT
ARTHUR.



A
SOLDIER
FROM
OUR UNIT
WAS AT-
TACKED
NEAR
HERE.

HAVE
YOU
SEEN
ANYONE
SUSPIC-
IOUS?

NOPE.
HAVEN'T
SEEN
ANYONE
ELSE.



IMMORTAL
SLIGIMOTO.

YOU'RE
SLIGIMOTO,
FROM THE 1ST
DIVISION.



"IMMORTAL."



IMMORTAL
SLIGIMOTO
?

SO
HE'S
THE...

**B
A
D
M
P**

SO YOU
MUST BE THE
ONE WHO
ATTACKED
PRIVATE
OGATA, EH?





NEVER
USE AN
EDGE-GRAIN
CUTTING
BOARD, AS
WOOD SLIVERS
CAN GET
MIXED INTO
THE MEAT AS
YOU CHOP.

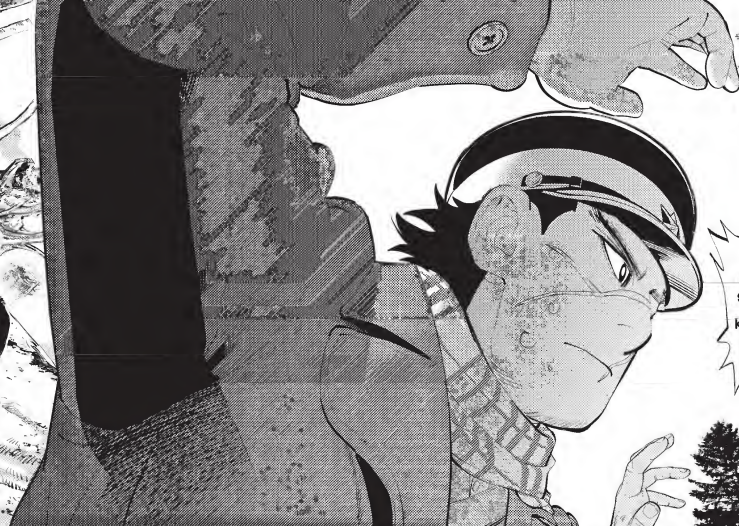
FOR
CITATAP,
YOU
SHOULD
ONLY
USE...

...A HARD,
ODORLESS
WOOD SUCH
AS OAK,
CUT FROM
THE CROSS-
SECTION OF
A TREE!

THIS GIRL
WILL NOT
TOLERATE
WOOD
SHAVINGS
IN HER
CITATAP!

ITATANI
(CUTTING BOARD
USED FOR
MEAT)

Chapter 10: Gamble



YOU TWO!
KEEP YOUR
DIS-
TANCE!

IT'S
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO!
WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HE MIGHT
DO!

GET
DOWN
ON
YOUR
STOM-
ACH!



THIS IS
A WASTE
OF TIME.

SHOOT
HIM IN THE
KNEES.



HURRY
UP AND
DO IT!



GET DOWN
AND PUT
YOUR HANDS
BEHIND YOUR
BACK!

WE SAID
GET DOWN
ON YOUR
STOMACH,
SUGIMOTO!

BADMP

BADMP

**FLICK IT!
I'M
IMMORTAL!**

WHF

WOOSH





WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ASK HIM WHAT HAPPENED WITH OGATA.

BUT IF WE HIT HIM IN THE HEAD, HE'LL DIE.

NO, JUST START SHOOTING.

SHALL WE SMOKE HIM OUT, SIR?

PATH-ETIC.

HE DOVE INTO THE HOLE.

WHA—?!



IF HE'S THE REAL THING, THEN HE WON'T DIE SO EASILY.

LET'S PUT HIS LEGEND TO THE TEST.

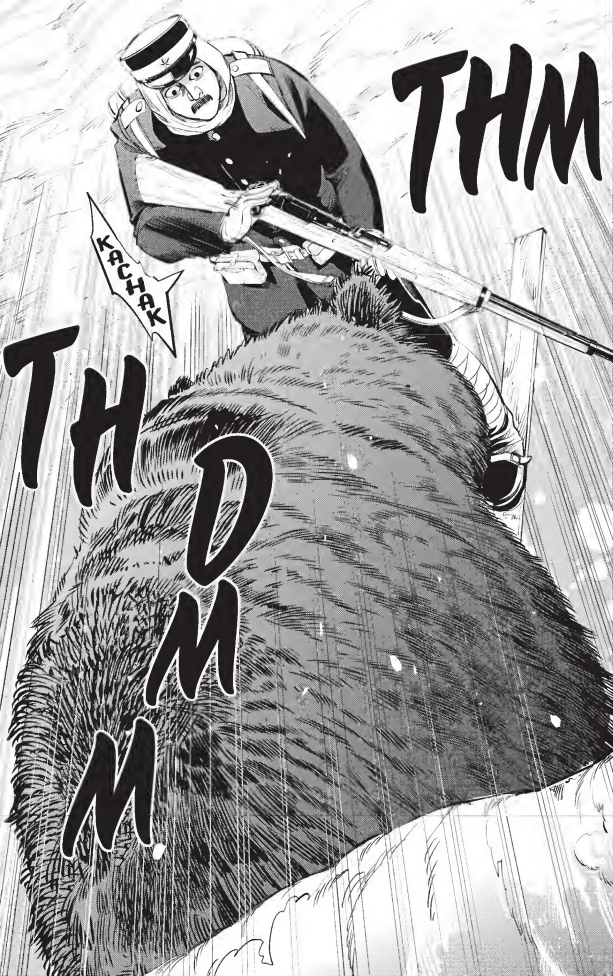
IT'S DISGRACEFUL.

I DON'T THINK A MAN LIKE THAT DESERVES TO BE CALLED IMMORTAL SUGIMOTO, THE LEGENDARY SOLDIER WHO FOUGHT LIKE THE DEVIL.



SAY, WHAT KIND OF HOLE IS THIS, SIR?











CALM
YOURSELF,
BEAR.



PLAYING
DEAD
DOESN'T
WORK
EITHER.

...TURNING
TO RUN
FROM A
BROWN BEAR
IS SUICIDE.

MY
GRANDFATHER
WHO WORKED
IN THE
MOUNTAINS
MAKING
CHARCOAL
ONCE TOLD
ME...



HE SAID TO
STAND STILL
AND SPEAK
CALMLY TO
THE BEAR.

OFF
URFF

GRUN
GRR

GRUFF



IT'S NOT
REARING
UP TO
ATTACK.

IT'S
CHECKING
TO SEE
IF THERE
ARE ANY
OTHER
THREATS
AROUND.



YOU LOOK
STRAIGHT
INTO ITS
EYES AND
WAIT FOR
THE ANGER
TO
SUBSIDE.



IF THE BEAR
IS CHARGING
AT YOU IN
A RAGE,
SHOOTING IT
WON'T
STOP IT.



SO FAR,
EVERY-
THING IS
GOING
JUST
LIKE MY
GRAND-
FATHER
TOLD ME.

ITS
BREATHING
IS
STARTING
TO RELAX.



HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF



WELL,
GRANDPA
WOUND UP
GETTING KILLED
AND EATEN
BY A BEAR AT
HIS CHARCOAL
BURNING HUT.

SO I'VE
GOT
MY RE-
VENGE.



THUD



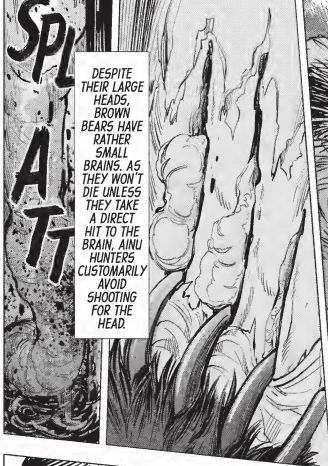
ALL
THAT'S
LEFT TO
DO IS...

...TAKE
CAREFUL
AIM AND
SHOOT
IT...

...IN
THE
HEAD.



BLAM



DESPITE
THEIR LARGE
HEADS,
BROWN
BEARS HAVE
RATHER
SMALL
BRAINS. AS
THEY WON'T
DIE UNLESS
THEY TAKE
A DIRECT
HIT TO THE
BRAIN, AINU
HUNTERS
CUSTOMARILY
AVOID
SHOOTING
FOR THE
HEAD.



I'LL SHOW
YOU WHAT
A 7TH
DIVISION
SOLDIER
CAN DO!

THE AINU
CALL YOU
A GOD
OF THE
MOUNTAIN?
HAH!

WHAT'S
WRONG?
ARE YOU
SCARED?

HAHA
HAHA!

GRAAH

GRAAR

I'll
kill
you

COME
ON!

GSH
KRAK
K

SLAM



THE BEAR
BITES DOWN
ON ITS PREY,
AND THEN
THROWS IT
UP INTO THE
AIR USING
ITS IMMENSE
STRENGTH.

RIKOSINOT. AN
AINU WORD
MEANING
"TOSSEING UP,"
IT REFERS TO
A KIND OF
BEAR ATTACK.

THE BEAR
REPEATEDLY
TOSSES THE
PREY INTO THE
AIR AND LETS
IT CRASH TO
THE GROUND.
AS IF TOYING
WITH ITS
TARGET.







"A BROWN
BEAR WILL
NEVER KILL A
HUMAN THAT
ENTERS ITS
DEN."

I GUESS
ASIRPA
WAS
RIGHT.



I WONDER
IF SHE WAS
ABLE TO
SHAKE THAT
GLY OFF?



THOUGH,
ASIRPA
MIGHT
MAKE YOU
INTO
CITATAP
AND EAT
YOU.

BU
BU
BU
BU

I CAN'T
LEAVE YOU
ALONE, NOW
THAT YOUR
MAMA IS
DEAD... SO
I'LL TAKE
YOU WITH
ME.



ITS
CANINES
ARE TWICE
THE SIZE
OF ANY
DOG'S.

Chapter 11: Rinu Kotan



ITS TAIL IS
COMPLETELY
STRAIGHT!



AND ABOVE ALL,
ITS ENORMOUS
SIZE MEANS...
THIS ISN'T A
HOKKAIDO DOG
OR AN AKITA!



IT HAS A
NARROW
CHEST...
...AND LONG
TOES ON
ITS FRONT
PAWS!

RETAR!

I
THOUGHT
THESE
THINGS
WERE
EXTINCT!

**IT'S
AN EZO
WOLF!**

Chapter 11: Rinu Kotan





RETAR,
STOP!
THAT'S
ENOUGH!



GRRRR

GUH...



CLOP



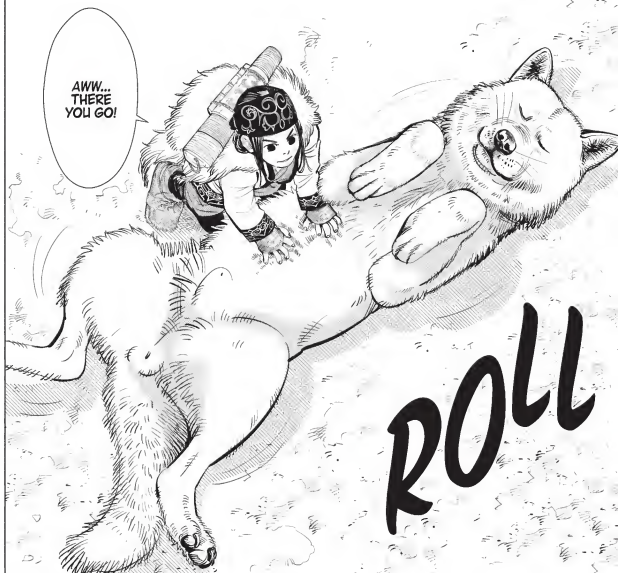
STILL,
THANK
YOU FOR
SAVING
ME.

DON'T
BECOME
AN EVIL
WENKAMUY
FOR MY
SAKE.

YOU'RE
THE LAST
HORKEWKAMUY,
THE LAST
WOLF GOD.

SNIP









HE CAN'T COME
AFTER US WITH A
BROKEN LEG. HE
LOOKS PRETTY
TOUGH, SO HE
SHOULDN'T DIE
EVEN IF WE
LEAVE HIM HERE.



HE MIGHT
AS WELL
BE. LET'S
GO.



IS HE
DEAD?



DID THE WOLF
TAKE
DOWN THAT
SOLDIER?



AAAAHH!

SHU
D
D
E
R

SUGIMOTO,
WHAT'S
THAT?

BU
BUU
BU
BU



I'LL TAKE
GOOD
CARE OF
HIM!

I'LL BE
HIS NEW
MOTHER!



SUGIMOTO.

SUGI-
MOTOOH.
LEMMIE
SEE WHAT
YOU'VE
GOT THERE.

WHAT
WERE
YOU
GONNA
DO WITH
THAT CUB,
HUH?



IT'S
NOTHING!
IT'S NOT
IMPORTANT!

SWF

ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO
TO MY
KOTAN, MY
VILLAGE!

*GLUG-
MOTO
VISION

DO
YOU
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT
THEY
EAT?

HIS
NEW
MOTHER...
SERI-
OUSLY
?

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
EXPERI-
ENCE
RAISING
A BEAR
CUB?

EEEP!

GASP

GASP

GASP

HLIH?
I'M NOT
GONNA
EAT HIM.

BU
BU
BU
BU

I DON'T
WANT
TO EVEN
IMAGINE
PUTTING
SALT ON
HIS LITTLE
BRAIN AND
EATING IT!

I... I
UNDERSTAND,
BUT YOU'LL
HAVE TO
EAT HIM
ALONE!

SHLUMP

WHEN WE FIND
A BEAR CUB
DURING A
HUNT, IT'S OUR
TRADITION
TO RAISE
IT IN THE
VILLAGE.

WAIT,
WHAT?



NUSASAN
AN ALTAR
IN WHICH
SKULLS
OF BEARS
ARE
ENSHRINED.



AINU KOTAN
LOCATED BY A LARGE
RIVER OR ESTUARY,
THIS SETTLEMENT
CONSISTS OF A
FEW DOZEN CISE
(HOUSES). ITS
RESIDENTS LIVE
IN A WELL-ORDERED
SOCIETY LED BY
THEIR VILLAGE CHIEF.







I WON'T
BE
WELCOME
HERE.

THIS
VILLAGE
WAS
GATHERING
MONEY TO
FIGHT THE
JAPANESE.



MA'AM,
I'M ONLY
VISITING TO
LEAVE THIS
CLUB WITH
YOU.

I WON'T
STAY HERE
FOR LONG.
WE'LL LEAVE
SOON.



...
SHE
WANTS YOU
TO HAVE A
MEAL AND
SPEND THE
NIGHT HERE.

HUICI
CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
THE SISAM
LANGUAGE.



BUT OF THE
OTHER TWO
THIRDS, ONE
THIRD OF
THEM COULD
NOT SPEAK
JAPANESE
AT ALL.

IN THIS ERA,
AINU VILLAGES
INTERACTED WITH
JAPANESE PEOPLE
THROUGH THE
FUR TRADE, AND
THEREFORE
KNOWLEDGE OF
BASIC JAPANESE
WAS REQUIRED.

ROUGHLY
A THIRD OF
THE AINU
PEOPLE OF
THE TIME
COULD
SPEAK
JAPANESE
WELL.



TANEPO
ASIRPA TAK
NISPA NE KUSLI
AKIYANNE NA.

(YOU'RE THE
FIRST GUEST
ASIRPA HAS EVER
BROUGHT HERE,
SO WE WOULD
LIKE TO
WELCOME YOU.)



NOD
NOD



WON'T
IT SPELL
TROUBLE
FOR YOU
IF I STAY
HERE?



LOOK
AT THIS
TATTOO!

THE MORE
IMPORTANT
THE
MAN, THE
LARGER
THE
TATTOO
HIS WIFE
CAN GET.

MY LATE
EKASI, MY
GRANDFATHER,
WAS THE MOST
IMPORTANT
MAN IN THE
VILLAGE, SO
NO ONE WOULD
EVER COMPLAIN
AGAINST
HUCI.

IT'S
NO
PROB-
LEM!

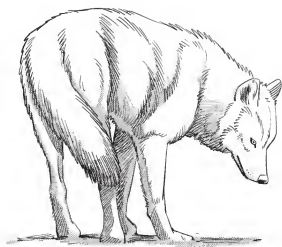


BESIDES,
IT SEEMS
EVERYONE
IS VERY
INTERESTED
IN YOU.



HA HA
HA...







Chapter 12: Kamuy Mosir



MY AUNT
AND UNCLE
LIVE IN A
DIFFERENT
CISE.

NO,
ONLY HUCI.

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
OTHER
FAMILY
MEMBERS
LIVING
IN THIS
HOUSE?



MY MOTHER
DIED OF AN
ILLNESS SOON
AFTER GIVING
BIRTH TO ME,
SO I NEVER
GOT TO
KNOW
HER.

EKASI FELL
SICK AND
DIED SIX
YEARS
AGO.



ITESENI
DEVICE
FOR
WEAVING
MATS.

KEMEYKI NE
YA ITESE NE
YA MENOKO
MONRAYKE
EAYKAP MENOKO
ANAKNE AYNU
HOKU KOR KA
EAYKAP.

(A WOMAN WHO
CANNOT SEW OR
KNIT IS UNABLE
TO GET AN AINU
HUSBAND.)

ASIRPA EKIMNE
PATEK KI
WA MENOKO
MONRAYKE
EAYKAP.

(ASIRPA SPENDS
ALL HER TIME IN
THE MOUNTAINS
AND CAN'T DO A
WOMAN'S WORK.)



MARRIAGE
BETWEEN AINU
AND OTHER
GROUPS WAS
NOT FORBIDDEN.
THERE ARE
MANY AINU
WITH RUSSIAN
ANCESTRY.

IN FACT, THE
AINU FROM
NORTHERN
HOKKAIDO WERE
KNOWN TO BE
EXCEPTIONALLY
WELL-BUILT AND
BRAWNY.







A MIXTURE
OF MEAT
BROTH AND
ICE WATER.

WHAT
ARE YOU
FEEDING
THE CUB?



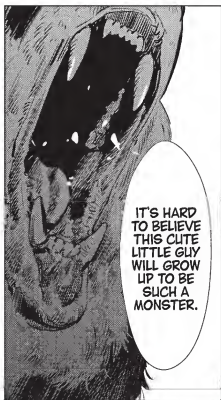
ASIRPA,
YOU
HAVEN'T
TRIED TO
TOUCH HIM.
DO YOU
NOT LIKE
BEARS?



HE'LL BE
AS BIG
AS HIS
MOTHER
IN JUST
THREE
YEARS.



NO, IT'S NOT
THAT... IF YOU
KEEP PETTING
IT LIKE THAT,
YOU'LL GET
ATTACHED.
SUGIMOTO, YOU
SHOULD STOP.



IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE
THIS CUTE
LITTLE GUY
WILL GROW
UP TO BE
SUCH A
MONSTER.



NO...
WE WILL
PERFORM A
CEREMONY
AND SEND
HIM TO THE
LAND OF
THE GODS.



BU
BU
BU

WHEN HE
GETS BIGGER,
YOU'LL
RETURN HIM
TO THE WILD,
RIGHT?



...



WHICH
MEANS...



SO YOU'RE
GOING TO
KILL HIM
AFTER ALL...



INSTEAD OF
"KILLING HIM",
WE THINK
OF IT AS
"SENDING HIM
BACK."

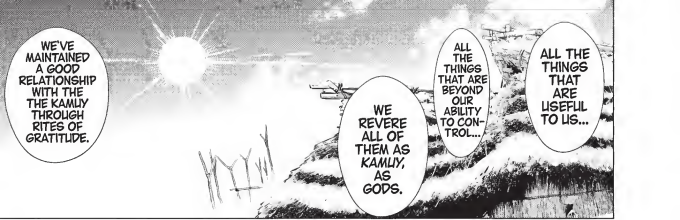


I WAS SO
SAD THAT
I COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO GO TO THE
CEREMONY.

A YEAR LATER...
RIGHT BEFORE THE
CEREMONY, I TRIED
TO QUIETLY SNEAK
THE CUB OUT AND
RETURN HIM TO
THE MOUNTAINS.
THE ADULTS WERE
OUTRAGED
WITH ME.

WHEN I WAS
YOUNGER,
THERE WAS
A BEAR CUB
I DOTTED ON
LIKE A LITTLE
BROTHER.



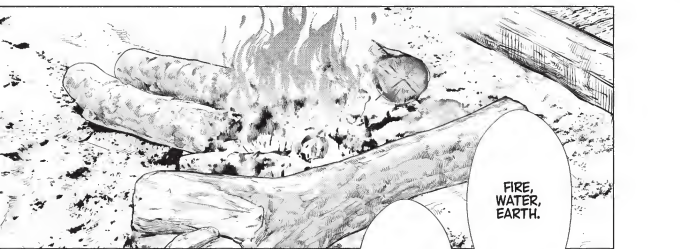


WE'VE
MAINTAINED
A GOOD
RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE
THE KAMLY
THROUGH
RITES OF
GRATITUDE.

WE
REVERE
ALL OF
THEM AS
KAMLY,
AS
GODS.

ALL
THE
THINGS
THAT ARE
BEYOND
OUR
ABILITY
TO CON-
TROL...

ALL THE
THINGS
THAT
ARE
USEFUL
TO US...

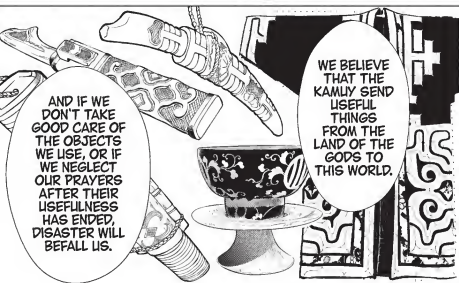


FIRE,
WATER,
EARTH.

TREES,
ANIMALS,
NATURAL
PHENOMENA.



EVEN
CLOTHES AND
TABLEWARE
HAVE KAMLY
THAT RESIDE
WITHIN THEM.



WE BELIEVE
THAT THE
KAMLY SEND
USEFUL
THINGS
FROM THE
LAND OF THE
GODS TO
THIS WORLD.

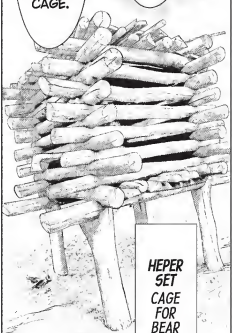
AND IF WE
DON'T TAKE
GOOD CARE OF
THE OBJECTS
WE USE, OR IF
WE NEGLECT
OUR PRAYERS
AFTER THEIR
USEFULNESS
HAS ENDED,
DISASTER WILL
BEFALL US.



THE BEAR,
KIMUNKAMLY,
IS RANKED
ESPECIALLY
HIGH AMONG
THE ANIMAL
KAMLY.

FOR ONE
TO TWO
YEARS,
WE RAISE
AND
CHERISH
IT IN ITS
CAGE.

RAISING
A BEAR
CUB IS CON-
SIDERED
AN HONOR.



HEPER
SET
CAGE
FOR
BEAR
CUBS



SINCE WE
ARE HUNTERS
AND LIVE OFF
THE LAND, THE
KAMLY OF
ANIMALS ARE
ESPECIALLY
IMPORTANT.

WHEN THEY
ARE IN THE
LAND OF THE
GODS, ALL
ANIMALS TAKE
THE FORM OF
HUMANS.



WHEN
THEY COME
TO THIS
WORLD TO
PLAY, THEY
WEAR THE
SKIN AND
FLESH OF
ANIMALS.

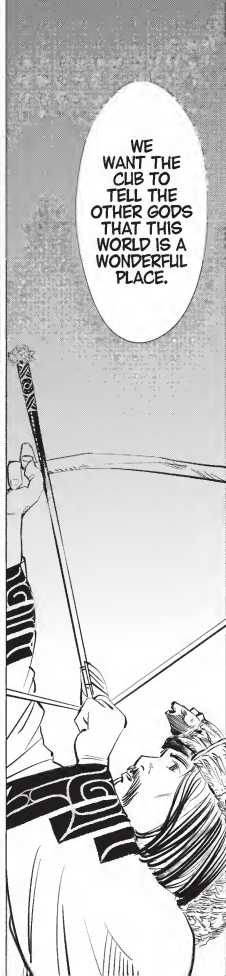


WHEN THE
DAY COMES
TO SEND OFF
THE CLUB,
THE WHOLE
VILLAGE
HOLDS
A GREAT
CEREMONY.

WE
CALL THIS
CEREMONY
THE
IOMANTE.



THIS WAY
THE KAMUY
WILL KEEP
COMING
BACK AGAIN
AND AGAIN.



WE
WANT THE
CLUB TO
TELL THE
OTHER GODS
THAT THIS
WORLD IS A
WONDERFUL
PLACE.



LOTS OF
FOOD IS
PREPARED,
AND WE
SEND OFF
THE CLUB'S
SPIRIT TO
THE WORLD
OF THE GODS
BEARING
MANY
GIFTS.

THERE
IS
SINGING
AND
DANCING.

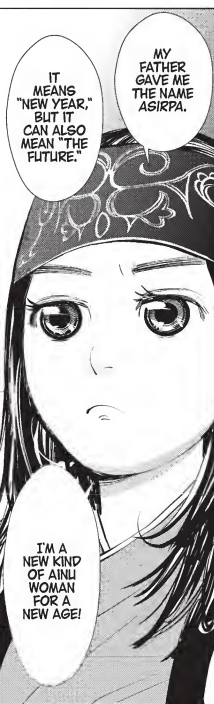


COULD
IT BE THAT
SOME
PART OF
YOU DIDN'T
BELIEVE
IT, SO YOU
TRIED TO LET
THE BEAR
ESCAPE?

HUH?

IF YOU
BELIEVED
IT, YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
SO SAD
WHEN KILLING
THAT BEAR,
RIGHT?

DO YOU
REALLY
BELIEVE
ALL THAT,
ASIRPA?



IT
MEANS
"NEW YEAR,"
BUT IT
CAN ALSO
MEAN "THE
FUTURE."

MY
FATHER
GAVE ME
THE NAME
ASIRPA.

I'M A
NEW KIND
OF AINLI
WOMAN
FOR A
NEW AGE!



THAT'S
A VERY
PRACTICAL
WAY OF
LOOKING
AT IT.

YOU DO
SEEM A
LITTLE
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
OTHER AINLI.



FOR
EXAMPLE, IF
WE RAISE THE
BEAR CUB
INSTEAD OF
KILLING IT
IMMEDIATELY,
WE END UP
WITH MORE
MEAT AND
FUR.

WITHIN
EVERY
BELIEF IS AN
IMPORTANT
LESSON
THAT
HELPS US
SURVIVE.

WE'VE
LIVED
OUR
LIVES
FOLLOWING
THESE
LESSONS.

SO I
BELIEVE
THAT
THEY
ARE
RIGHT.



BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN
SAYING
GOODBYE
DOESN'T
HURT.

THAT'S
WHY I TRY
TO KEEP MY
DISTANCE,
SO I WON'T
GET TOO
ATTACHED.



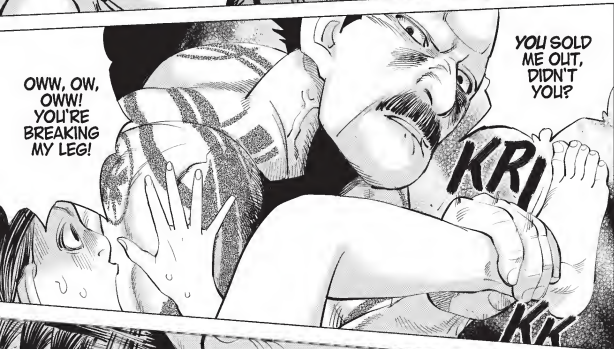
DON'T YOU
AGREE,
USHIYAMA, THE
UNDEFEATED?

YOUR
VORACIOUS
SEXUAL
APPETITE
WILL BE
YOUR
DOWNFALL.



HOW
THE
HELL
DID
YOU...

HIIKATA!
YOU OLD
GEEZER!

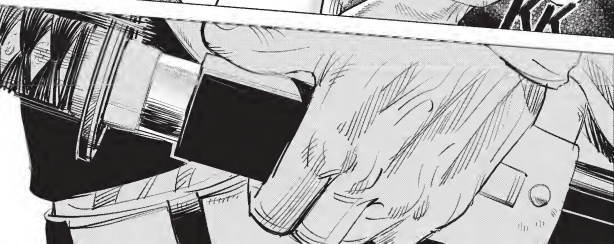


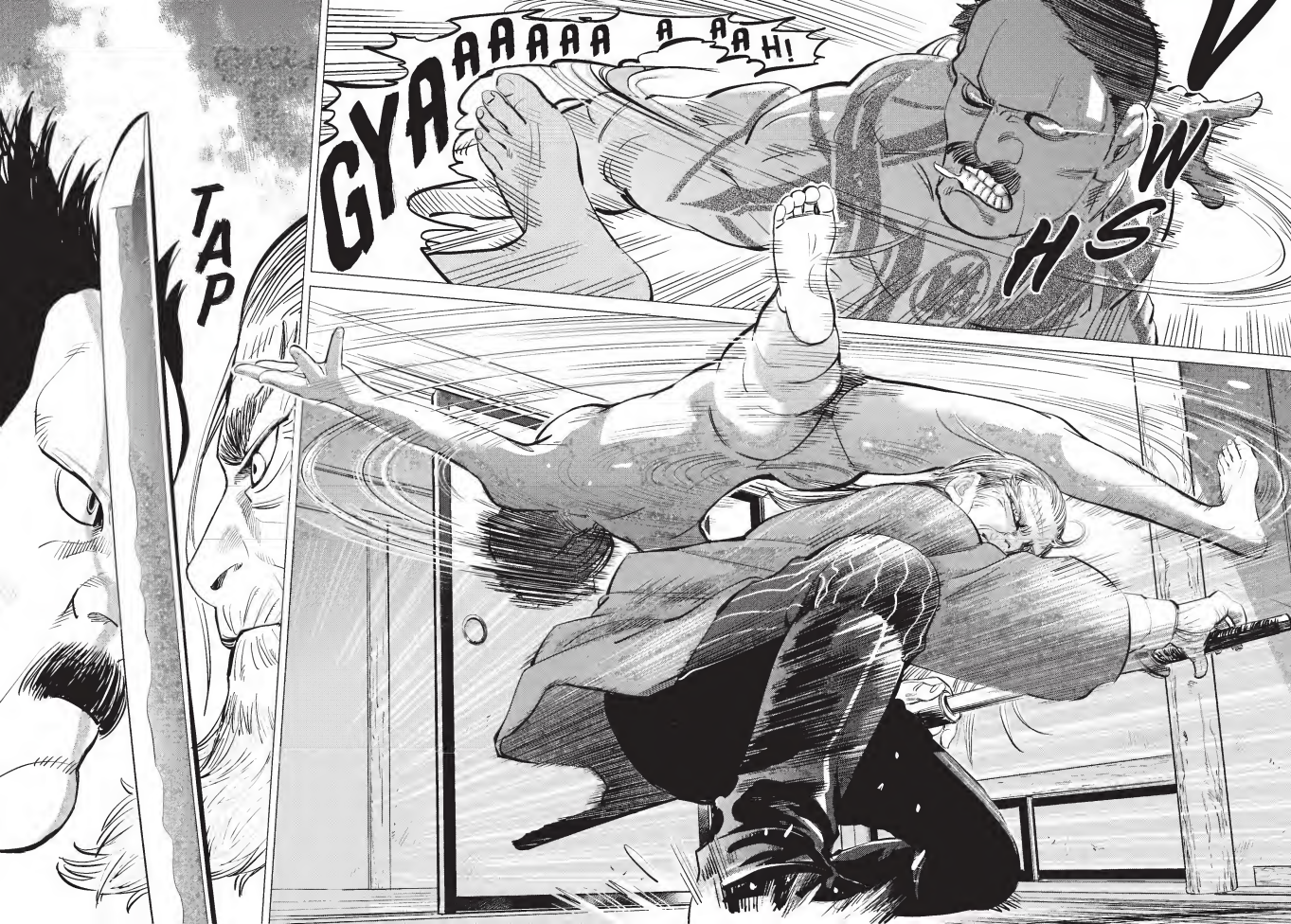
OWW, OW,
OWW!
YOU'RE
BREAKING
MY LEG!

YOU SOLD
ME OUT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

KRI

KK

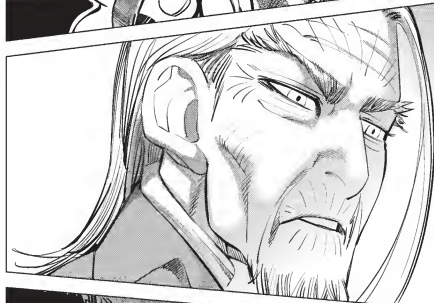






BUT DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD CUT THROUGH MY THICK SKULL?

I KNOW YOU USED TO BE IN THE SHINSENGUMI ...



WHY, OF COURSE.



THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL EACH OTHER.

IF WE COVER YOUR BODY IN OIL PAPER AND TRACE THROUGH IT, WE CAN GET A COPY OF THE TATTOO.

LOOK AT THIS, USHIYAMA.





SO
WHAT'RE
YOU
PLANNING
ON DOING,
GATHERING
UP ALL
THESE
PEOPLE,
YOU OLD
FART?



WE
CAN HAVE A
MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL
RELATION-
SHIP.

JOIN US.



WE'RE
GOING TO
TAKE THEIR
TATTOOED
SKINS.

SOONER OR
LATER, WE'LL
RUN INTO THE
7TH DIVISION.



...WITH AN
OBSOLETE
WEAPON
LIKE THAT
KATANA OF
YOURS?

SO YOU'RE
GONNA PICK
A FIGHT
WITH THE
IMPERIAL
ARMY...



NO
MATTER
HOW OLD
THEY GET,
BOYS LOVE
PLAYING
WITH
SWORDS.

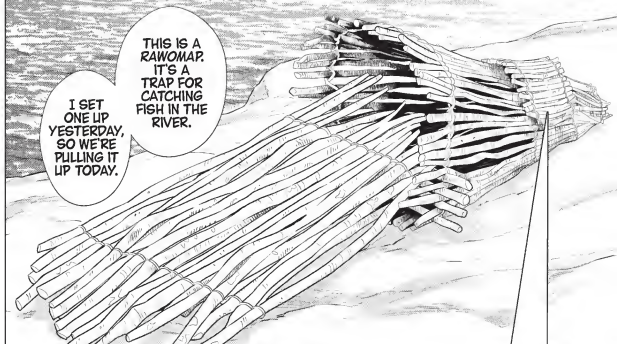
Chapter 13: Guardian Spirit

THE TWO OF
THEM AND
THE CUB
HAVE COME
TO A CLEAR
STREAM
CLOSE
TO THE
VILLAGE.

BU
BU
BU

BU
BU
BU

HEPER
ESINOTPE
A TOY
FOR BEAR
CUBS.



I SET
ONE UP
YESTERDAY,
SO WE'RE
PULLING IT
UP TODAY.

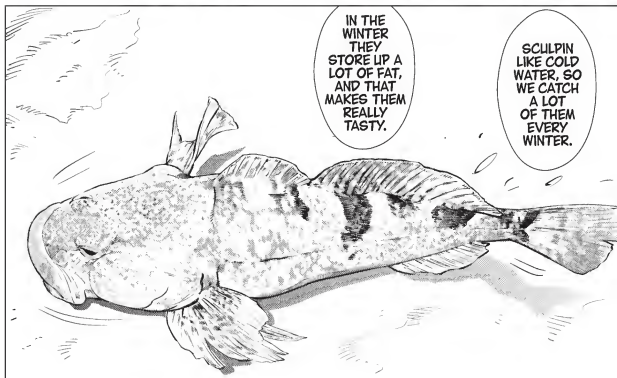
THIS IS A
RAWOMAP.
IT'S A
TRAP FOR
CATCHING
FISH IN THE
RIVER.



THESE ARE
SAKHALIN
SCULPIN. THEY
SLEEP NEAR
THE BANK, SO
THAT'S WHERE
I SANK THE
RAWOMAP.



WOW! WE
CAUGHT
A LOT!



IN THE
WINTER
THEY
STORE UP A
LOT OF FAT,
AND THAT
MAKES THEM
REALLY
TASTY.

SCULPIN
LIKE COLD
WATER, SO
WE CATCH
A LOT OF
THEM
EVERY
WINTER.



I THINK
IT'LL BE
FASTER
IF I CUT
THROUGH
THE TREES.



OH CRAP, I
FORGOT MY
KNIFE AND
BAYONET
BACK AT
YOUR HOUSE.

LET'S GUT
THE ONES
WE'RE LISING
FOR THE
HOT POT.
YOU HELP
OUT TOO,
SUGIMOTO.



OKAY,
SHEESH!

DASH

IF YOU DON'T
CLEAN AND
GUT SCULPIN
RIGHT AWAY,
THE FLAVOR
IS LOST! SO
HURRY UP AND
GET THEM,
STUPID!

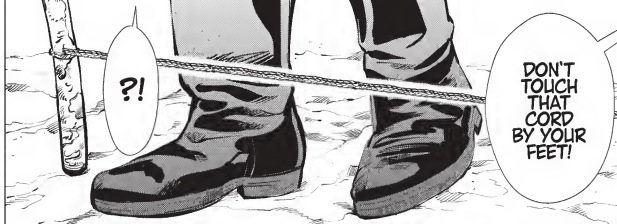


**STOP RIGHT
THERE!
DON'T MOVE
A MUSCLE!**



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

...



?!

DON'T TOUCH THAT CORD BY YOUR FEET!



BUT THAT ONE IS SET UP TO CATCH RIVER OTTERS.

WE USE THEM TO CATCH BEAR OR DEER...

IT'S AN AMAPPO—AN ARROW TRAP.

TRIP THAT CORD AND YOU'LL BE SHOT WITH A POISONED ARROW.



THE JAPANESE RIVER OTTER WAS EXTENSIVELY HUNTED FOR ITS VALUABLE PELT. THEIR NUMBERS DROPPED DRASTICALLY DURING THE MEIJI AND TAISHO ERAS, AND BY THE 1950s THE HOKKAIDO SUBSPECIES OF OTTER WAS EXTINCT.

IT'S NEVER WISE TO ENTER THE FOREST NEAR AN AINU KOTAN UNPREPARED.

MY COUSIN WAS HIT BY ONE OF THESE. HE MANAGED TO GET THE ARROW OUT RIGHT AWAY, BUT THERE WAS STILL POISON LEFT IN THE WOUND.

THESE ARROWS AREN'T LACED WITH STINGRAY VENOM. INSTEAD, WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS WOLFSBANE... WHICH MEANS YOU'LL SUFFER FOR A LONG TIME INSTEAD OF DYING INSTANTLY.

I HAD NO IDEA. THANKS, YOU SAVED ME.

THAT'S TERRIFYING.

HE WAS IN AGONY FOR DAYS. IN THE END, HIS ENTIRE BODY SWELLED UP AND HE DIED.

OSOMA!
I'M ALSO OSOMA'S FATHER!

GRIN

MY NAME IS MAKAKUR!
ASIRPA IS MY SISTER'S DAUGHTER.

SORRY ABOUT EARLIER... I ASSUMED THAT SOME PEOPLE HERE WOULD BE HOSTILE TOWARD A JAPANESE VISITOR.

IF SHE SAYS SHE LIKES YOU, IT'S SAFE TO SAY YOU'RE NOT SUCH A BAD GUY.

ASIRPA IS A SMART GIRL.

ACTUALLY, SHE'S THE ONE WHO LOOKS OUT FOR ME.

IT'S GOOD THAT A STRONG MAN LIKE YOU IS WITH HER.

EVER SINCE ASIRPA LOST HER FATHER, SHE'S BEEN GOING INTO THE MOUNTAINS ALONE. I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK FOR HER.



WHEN YOU
PAN FOR
GOLD IN
THE RIVER,
THE WATER
GROWS
CLOUDY
AND THE
FISH
CANNOT
BREATHE.

SCULPIN,
SALMON
AND AYU
CAN ONLY
LIVE IN
CLEAN
WATER.

AND THE
TROUT
AND
SALMON
FROM THE
OCEAN
WON'T
COME
BACK UP
THE
RIVER.

THE
OTTERS,
FOXES
AND BROWN
BEAR THAT
FEED ON
THOSE
FISH WILL
DISAPPEAR
AS WELL.

THAT'S
HOW MUCH
WE CARE
ABOUT
KEEPING
THE RIVER
CLEAN. BUT
THEN PEOPLE
STARTED
TO PAN FOR
GOLD...

EVERYONE
HERE
BELIEVES
IT WAS THE
WRATH OF THE
WAKKAUS-
KAMUY, THE
GOD OF THE
WATER.

WE AINU
DON'T
WASH OUR
CLOTHES IN
THE RIVER,
NOR DO WE
USE IT TO
WASH AWAY
WASTE.

...AND HOW
IT LED TO
THE GOLD
BEING
STOLEN AND
ASIRPA'S
FATHER
BEING KILLED
ALONG WITH
THE OTHERS.

ABOUT HOW
THE PEOPLE
OF OUR
VILLAGE
WERE
GATHERING
GOLD TO
BATTLE
AGAINST
THE
SISAM...

YOU
HEARD
THE
STORY
FROM
ASIRPA,
RIGHT?

NO ONE
TOUCHED
IT FOR
DECADES.

OUR
ANCESTORS
GATHERED
ALL THAT
GOLD.

THEN
SOME MEN
DECIDED
TO USE
IT TO BUY
WEAPONS.

NO.

DO YOU
HAVE
ANY
IDEA
WHO
KILLED
THEM
?

THAT
GOLD WAS
POSSESSED
BY SOME
KIND OF
EVIL SPIRIT.
IT WAS
CURSED.

AINU
SPOILING
THESE
RIVERS
JUST TO
GATHER
WEAPONS
FOR WAR...
SUCH
THINGS
NEVER
SHOULD
HAPPEN.





LOOK AT
HOW MANY
FISH WE
CAUGHT!



SHE'S
MAKING AN
OFFERING
TO HER
GUARDIAN
SPIRIT.

WHEN WE
RECEIVE
SOMETHING,
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SHARE
SOME OF IT
WITH OUR
GUARDIAN
SPIRIT.



FWSH
FWSH

AHH...

WHAT'S
SHE
DOING?



WE CALL
THEM
TURENPE.

OUR
GUARDIAN
SPIRIT COMES
IN AND OUT
THROUGH THE
BACK OF OUR
NECKS.

WE BELIEVE
THAT EVERY
PERSON
HAS ONE
FROM THE
MOMENT
THEY'RE
BORN.



THEY
ALSO
CONTROL
OUR
FATES.

WE
BELIEVE
THAT THEY
INFLUENCE
OUR
PERSON-
ALITIES
AND
ABI-
LITIES.

EVERY-
ONE HAS A
DIFFERENT
TURENPE.

THESE
TURENPE
CAN BE
SPIRITS
OF FIRE,
WATER,
THUNDER...
ALSO OF
WOLVES
OR
BEARS.

COME TO
THINK OF IT,
I'VE NEVER
SEEN YOU
MAKE ANY
OFFERINGS TO
THE BACK OF
YOUR NECK.

I SEE...

MAYBE
IT'S MY
GUARDIAN
SPIRIT
THAT
MAKES ME
IMMORTAL.

IN
THIS
VILLAGE,
ONLY
OLD
PEOPLE
BOTHR
DOING
THAT.

MAN, KIDS
THESE
DAYS...

SOME AINU
CAN SEE
TURENPE.

HUICI CAN
SEE THEM
A LITTLE
BIT.

SHE SAYS
YOU HAVE
A VERY
POWERFUL
TURENPE,
SUGIMOTO.





SALT-GRILLED SCULPIN IS ALSO PRETTY DELICIOUS. IT'S REALLY FATTY AND SMELLS GOOD TOO.

I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I HAD SO MANY ROOT VEGETABLES!

AND IT'S NICE TO HAVE ALL THESE VEGETABLES.

SIP
SIP

OKAY, LET'S SEE...

THE SCULPIN BROTH IS EXCEPTIONALLY RICH AND FLAVORFUL!

MMMM! THIS IS TASTY!

MAN, SCULPIN HOT POT IS AMAZING.

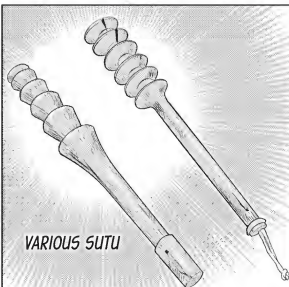
WHEW

YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT? DON'T YOU DARE TAKE OUT YOUR POOP HERE, SUGIMOTO!

WHAT ASIRPA DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT IN HOKURIKU, FRESHWATER SCULPIN ARE PART OF THE FAMOUS GORI DISHES, WHICH GO WELL WITH MISO.

HEY ASIRPA, THIS SOUP IS FANTASTIC THE WAY IT IS, BUT I BET IT WOULD GO GREAT WITH SOME MISO.

POK
POK



**SUTU
PUNISHMENT
ROD**

THE SUTU IS USED TO PUNISH VILLAGERS WHO COMMIT CRIMES SUCH AS THEFT OR HOMICIDE. IT IS NOT TO BE USED LIGHTLY.

SIR,
CONTINLING
THE SEARCH
IN THESE
CONDITIONS
WILL BE
DIFFICULT.

THIS
SNOWFALL
WILL LIKELY
COVER
UP ANY
TRACKS
THEY'VE
LEFT
BEHIND.

LIEUTENANT
TSURUMI.

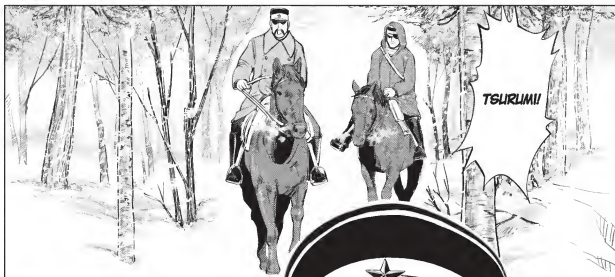




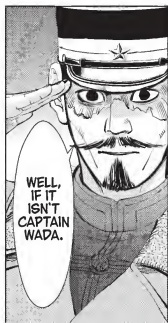
I FIND IT
HARD TO
BELIEVE
THAT THEY
WOULD GET
LOST OR
STRANDED.

THOSE
FOUR
MEN WERE
EXPERI-
ENCED
MOUNTAIN-
EERS.

TANIGAKI IN
PARTICULAR
WAS FROM
A MATAGI
FAMILY.



TSURUMI!



WELL,
IF IT
ISN'T
CAPTAIN
WADA.



WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?!

YOU TOOK
MY MEN ALL
THE WAY
OUT HERE
TO OTARU
WITHOUT MY
PERMISSION!



DOZE

NOT ONLY THAT, I HEAR YOU'VE SECRETLY BEEN TAKING WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FROM ASAHIKAWA!

THESE ACTIONS WON'T GO UNPUNISHED, TSURUMI!

YOU HAVE ONE MAN IN CRITICAL CONDITION AND FOUR MEN MISSING! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN OTARU?!



...LEAKS OUT.

SO SOMETIMES, THIS ODD FLUID...

DURING THE BATTLE OF MUKUJEN, SHRAPNEL FROM AN EXPLODING SHELL BLEW OFF PART OF THE FRONT OF MY SKULL.

EX-CUSE ME.



TSURUMI! THERE'S NO LONGER ANY PLACE FOR YOU IN THE ARMY!



I'M NOT COVERING FOR YOU ANYMORE!

FIRST OF ALL, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HOLD THE RANK OF FIRST LIEUTENANT WITH AN INJURY LIKE THAT!





PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME.

I'VE HAD
ISSUES
CONTROLLING
MY
TEMPER
EVER
SINCE.

MY
FRONTAL
LOBE WAS
DAMAGED
ALONG
WITH MY
SKULL.



YOU'VE
GONE
ABSO-
LUTELY
MAD.



IN FACT,
DON'T YOU
THINK IT
MAKES ME
EVEN MORE
HANDSOME?

OTHER
THAN THAT,
I'M IN TOP
CONDITION.

A WARRIOR
TAKES
PRIDE IN HIS
SCARS.



SIR!

SHOOT
HIM.





Chapter 14: Howling



LET'S
PREPARE
AND EAT
THIS RIVER
OTTER.



IT'S
DELICIOUS
WITH
SOME
SALT
SPRIN-
KLED
ON
TOP.

THE BONE
ON THE
BACK OF ITS
SKULL IS
THIN ENOUGH
FOR YOU
TO EASILY
CRACK OPEN
AND SCOOP
OUT THE
BRAIN.

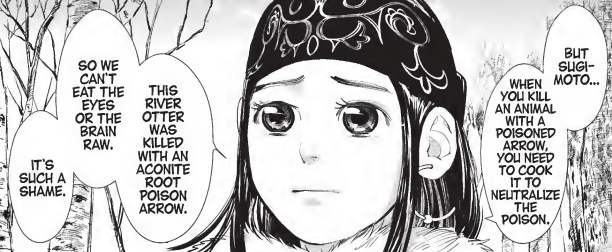
YAAAY...
BRAINS
AGAIN...



UNLIKE A HARE,
SKINNING A
RIVER OTTER
IS DIFFICULT
BECAUSE IT
HAS A LOT
MORE FAT
UNDER ITS
SKIN.

S
H
R
I
P

THE FAT
IS REALLY
TASTY
THOUGH,
SO WE'LL
SKIN IT IN A
WAY THAT
LEAVES THE
FAT ON THE
MEAT.



SO WE
CAN'T EAT THE
EYES OR THE
BRAIN RAW.

THIS
RIVER
OTTER WAS
KILLED WITH AN
ACONITE
ROOT POISON
ARROW.

IT'S
SUCH A
SHAME.

WHEN
YOU KILL
AN ANIMAL
WITH A
POISONED
ARROW, YOU
NEED TO
COOK IT TO
NEUTRALIZE
THE POISON.

BUT
SUGI-
MOTO...



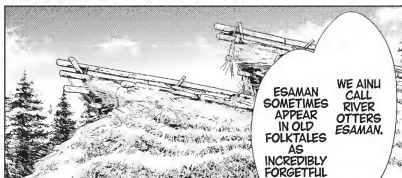
WE
CAN'T
EAT IT
RAW...?

AWW...
WE
CAN'T?



IF
WE EAT
ESAMAN
BEFORE
EMBARK-
ING ON A
HUNT...

...WE
ONLY DO
SO AFTER
ALL OF THE
PREPARA-
TIONS, SO
NOTHING
IS FORGOT-
TEN.



ESAMAN
SOMETIMES
APPEAR
IN OLD
FOLKTALES
AS
INCREDIBLY
FORGETFUL
KAMUY.

WE AINU
CALL RIVER
OTTERS
ESAMAN.



THAT'S WHY
WE NEVER EAT
THEM OR EVEN
UTTER THEIR
NAMES DURING
IOMANTE
OR OTHER
IMPORTANT
CEREMONIES.

SO WE
WON'T
FORGET
THE RITUAL.



ADD DRIED
PUKLISA
TO HELP
COVER THE
GAMEY
FLAVOR OF
THE MEAT.

CUT THE
OTTER
MEAT INTO
BITE-SIZED
CHUNKS.



AND
THERE WE
HAVE OUR
OTTER
OHAW.

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

ROOT
VEGETABLES
GO REALLY
WELL WITH
WILD GAME, SO
WE ADD SOME
DAIKON AND
BURDOCK
ROOT.

NOW
WE ADD
SOME SOFT
WINDFLOWER
TO BRING
OUT THE
FLAVOR.



WHAT
IS IT?

THERE'S
ACTUALLY
AN EVEN
MORE
DELICIOUS
PART!



IT'S
SOFT, AND
THE MELTY
FATTY
PARTS ARE
DELICIOUS!

IT'S
NOT
GREASY
AT ALL,
AND IT'S
GOT THIS
DELICATE
FLAVOR.



MMM, THE
MEAT IS
CERTAINLY
GAMEY, BUT
THANKS TO
THE ALPINE
LEEKS, IT
DOESN'T
BOTHER ME
SO MUCH.

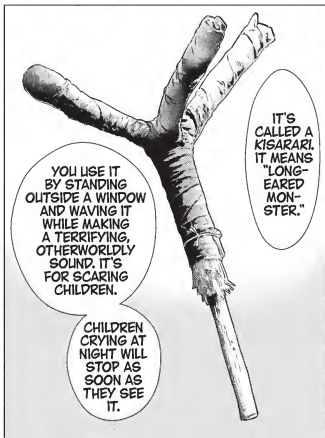
NOM
NOM



LET'S
EAT!

MUNCH
HFF
HFF









VRREEEOO-
LLOOHAARR-
RGGOOAAHH
!!



GOTCHA!

EVERYONE!
HE WANTS
TO TRY
AGAIN.

OKAY,
SUGI-
MOTO...
SHOW
THEM
WHAT
YOU'RE
CAPABLE
OF.



A H E M.



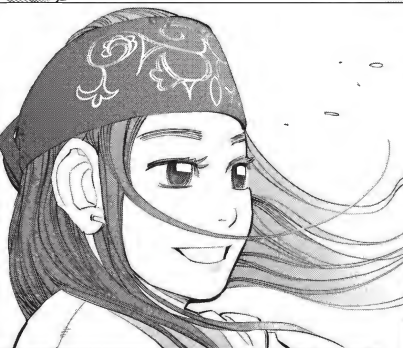
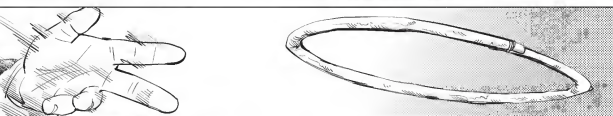
OKAY
THEN.

ASIRPA,
LET ME
TRY
AGAIN.



...
OSOMA
WET
HERSELF.

WOW,
IT'S
THE
SCARI-
EST
WHEN
ASIRPA
DOES
IT!



GAMES
AINU
CHILDREN
PLAY
ALSO
HONE
THEIR
SKILLS
FOR
HUNTING
AND
FISHING.

UKOKARIPCUY
(RING CATCH)
A RING MADE
OF VINES IS
TOSSED INTO
THE AIR, AND
EVERYONE
COMPETES TO
CATCH IT.



RATCAKO
A LIGHT
STAND.
HOLDS A
SCALLOP
SHELL
FILLED
WITH
WHALE OR
FISH OIL.



...!

IT'S A
SOUND
YOU DON'T
HEAR
OFTEN
THESE
DAYS.

DO YOU
HEAR THAT,
SUGIMOTO?



IT'S
A
WOLF'S
HOWL.

THE
HOWL
IS MUCH
DEEPER
AND
LONGER
THAN A
DOG'S.

THAT
NIGHT,
THE WIND
CARRIED
THE SOUND
OF
HOWLING
TO THEM.

THEY WERE
INSEPARABLE.



AFTER
ASIRPA'S
FATHER DIED,
THE TWO OF
THEM WENT
INTO THE
MOUNTAINS.

BUT THEY
BOTH
BELONGED
TO
DIFFERENT
WORLDS.

WHY
WOULD
A WILD
ANIMAL
DO
THAT?

I'VE SEEN
A LARGE
WHITE
WOLF
PROTECT
ASIRPA
TWICE
NOW.



A
WHITE
WOLF
...

I SEE.
THAT
MUST
BE
RETAR'S
HOWL,
THEN.

THE
WOLF
LOOKED
LIKE A TINY
SNOWMAN,
SO THEY
NAMED IT
RETAR,
WHICH
MEANS
WHITE.

ASIRPA AND
HER FATHER
WERE OUT
HUNTING ONE
DAY WHEN
THEY SAVED
A WOLF FROM
A BROWN
BEAR.









RETAR!



**ARE YOU
GOING TO
LEAVE ME
TOO?!**

**DON'T
GO! COME
BACK,
RETAR!**



...
**BECAUSE
HE IS A
PROUD
HORKEW-
KAMUY!**



DON'T
GO!

RETAR
...

ACA!
(FATHER!)

WAAAAAAAAH!!!

ASIRPA
MAY ACT
MATURE FOR
HER AGE,
BUT SHE'S
ACTUALLY
STILL A
FRAGILE,
LONELY
LITTLE
GIRL.



SHE MUST
REALLY BE
ENJOYING
HER TIME
IN THE
MOUNTAINS
WITH YOU,
SUGIMOTO.



EVER
SINCE
THEN,
ASIRPA
STOPPED
SMILING.
BUT SHE
SEEMS
MUCH
HAPPIER
RECENTLY.



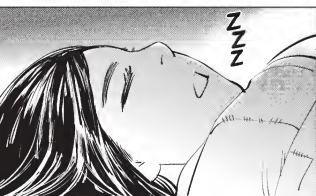
NEY
TA PAKNO
TURANO
AN WA
LINKORE
YAN.



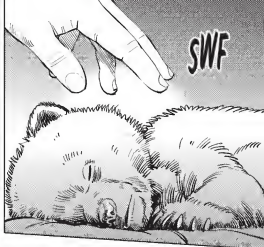
ASIRPA
ANAKNE
KUEYAM
PE NE.



SUGIMOTO
NISPA.



TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF.



Chapter 15: Scent



SO
SELFISH.

I HAVE
MY OWN
REASONS TO
TRAVEL WITH
HIM TOO!

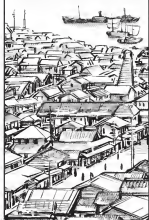
UNBELIEV-
ABLE.

HOW DARE
HE LEAVE
WITHOUT
SAYING A
WORD TO
ME!



WANDERING
AROUND
SUCH A
BIG TOWN
LOOKING FOR
HIM WOULD
BE VERY
DIFFICULT.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?
THERE'S
GOT TO BE
A BETTER
WAY...



OR
SOMETHING
ELSE MAY
HAVE
HAPPENED
TO HIM...

I'VE GOT
A BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS.



I WON'T
REST
UNTIL I'VE
TRACKED
HIM DOWN
AND
SMACKED
HIM WITH
THIS SUTU!

SUTU ARE
ABSO-
LUTELY
NOT TO
BE USED
LIGHTLY!

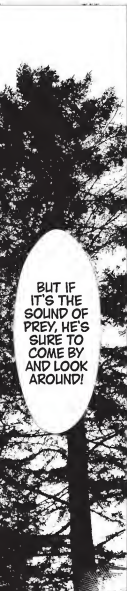


NO TRACE
OF HIM,
THOUGH.

I'VE
CHECKED
ALL THE
HUNTING
HUTS.

DID HE
KNOW I
WOULD
FOLLOW
HIM?

MAYBE
HE WENT
STRAIGHT
INTO
TOWN AND
HASN'T
COME
BACK
INTO THE
MOUN-
TAINS.



BUT IF
IT'S THE
SOUND OF
PREY, HE'S
SURE TO
COME BY
AND LOOK
AROUND!

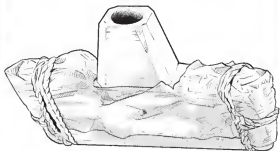
HOOI
OOO
HOOIOOO

WOLVES
HAVE SO
MANY
DIFFERENT
KINDS OF
HOWLS,
I CAN'T
IMITATE
THEM.



IPAPKENI (DEER WHISTLE)

MADE FROM THINLY STRETCHED DEER
BLADDER. WHEN BLOWN, THE VIBRATION
MAKES A SOUND VERY SIMILAR TO A
DEER'S CALL. IT IS USED TO LURE A
DEER WITHIN BOW RANGE.



IF I WALK
ALONG
A DEER
TRAIL AND
BLOW THIS
WHISTLE,
HE MIGHT
THINK I'M A
DEER...

AND COME
RUNNING.

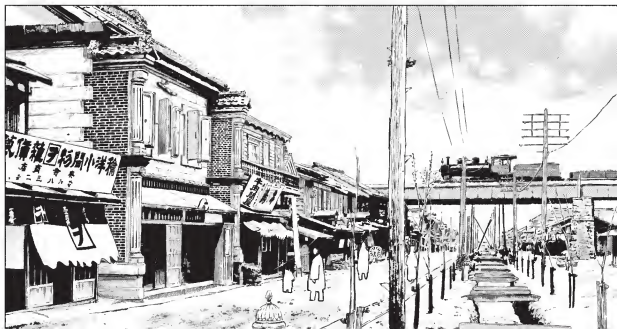


COULD
TELL
FROM
ASIRPA'S
SCENT
THAT SHE
NEEDED
HELP.

AND THIS
KAMLIY,
WITH A
SENSE OF
SMELL
KEENER
THAN THAT
OF ANY
DOG...



ANIMALS
WITH AN
ACUTE SENSE
OF SMELL
ARE SAID
TO SENSE
EMOTIONS
THROUGH
BODY ODOR.







THIS ONE
IS CALLED
"MOTHER
AND CHILD
GRASS."

THIS IS
CHICKWEED.



MAMA'S
EYES
MIGHT
BE BAD...

BUT HER
NOSE
MAKES UP
FOR IT!



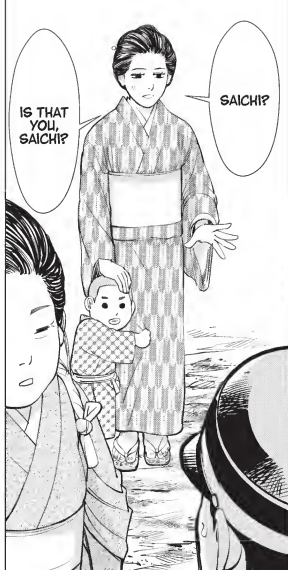
MAMA,
WHAT'S
THIS?



HOW
CAN YOU
TELL?

I
THINK
THIS
ONE
IS A
LOTUS
FLOWER.





I...
MY EYES...
I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING
EXCEPT
A BLUR
THESE DAYS.

WHO...
ARE
YOU?



SHUDDER



WAIT,
PLEASE!
LIME!

GRAB



SIR,
ARE YOU
OKAY?
YOU
DON'T
LOOK
RIGHT.



OF COURSE
SHE'S NOT
HERE. OF
COURSE LIME
WOULDN'T
BE SELLING
HER BODY IN
A NORTHERN
PORT TOWN
LIKE THIS.



OH...

SORRY, I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SOMEONE
ELSE...

EVEN IF
YOUR
EYES
WERE
HEALED...
WOULD
YOU
RECOG-
NIZE
ME?

THE
SAICHI YOU
KNEW... IS
PROBABLY
LONG
GONE.

LIME...
JUST
WHAT DID
I SMELL
LIKE TO
YOU?



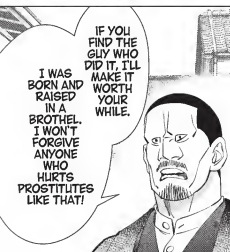


I'VE GOT
TO DO
SOMETHING,
AND FAST...



HUH?

YO,
BIG
GUY.



IF YOU
FIND THE
GUY WHO
DID IT, I'LL
MAKE IT
WORTH
YOUR
WHILE.

I WAS
BORN AND
RAISED
IN A
BROTHEL.
I WON'T
FORGIVE
ANYONE
WHO
HURTS
PROSTITUTES
LIKE THAT!



COME
ON NOW,
WHAT'S
SO
STRANGE
ABOUT
THAT
THOUGH?



SEEMS A
CUSTOMER
AT MY
FRIEND'S
BROTHEL
REALLY
MESSED UP
ONE OF THE
GIRLS!

OH
YEAH,
THERE'S
THIS ONE
THING!



OH,
IT'S
YOU
AGAIN.

HAVE
YOU HEARD
OF ANY
STRANGE
OCCUR-
RENCES
IN TOWN
LATELY?
TELL ME IF
YOU KNOW
ANYTHING.



NISHIN SOBA



SLURP

IN THE MEIJI ERA, THE NISHIN (HERRING) FISHING INDUSTRY WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN OTARU'S GROWTH. OTARU NEWSPAPERS FEATURED VARIOUS HERRING RECIPES.



RATTLE
RATTLE

WHEW...
THAT
WAS
REALLY
HINNA.



THE
SWEETLY
MARINATED
HERRING JUST
CRUMBLES
AWAY IN MY
MOUTH... LIKE
THE OLD LADY
SAID, THIS IS
SOME AMAZING
STUFF.



THE BROTH IS
VERY THICK...
PERFECT FOR A
KANTO GUY
LIKE ME.

SSIP

NISHIN SOBA
ORIGINATED IN KYOTO,
SO ONE WOULD
ASSUME THAT OTARU'S
NISHIN SOBA WOULD
HAVE LIGHTER BROTH.
INSTEAD, IT FEATURED
THICK BROTH POPULAR
IN THE KANTO REGION.



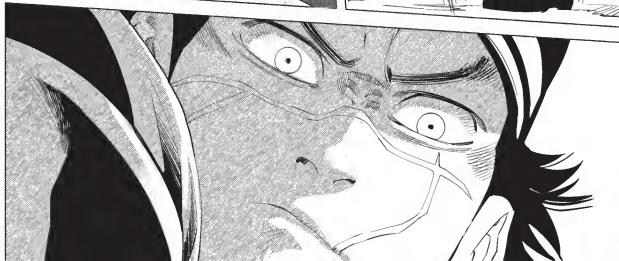
WHERE
IS HE?

WHO'S
THE GUY
LOOKING
FOR
TATTOOS?



IT'S
THE
YOUNG'UN
IN THE
MILITARY
CAP.





STOP
RIGHT
THERE!

STOP
STOMP

SHIT!

IF I
SHOOT
YOU
WHILE
YOU'RE
STANDING
THERE, I
MIGHT HIT A
BYSTANDER
WHEN THE
BULLET
EXITS YOUR
FACE.

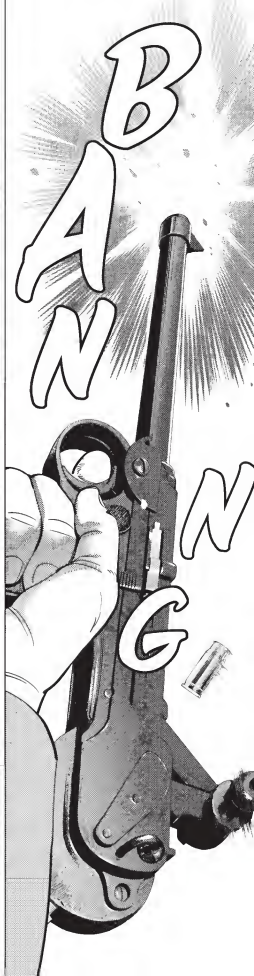
DOWN
ON
YOUR
KNEES.



WOLVES
SNIFF EACH
OTHER'S
REAR
ENDS TO
UNDERSTAND
THEIR
EMOTIONS
AND
PHYSICAL
CONDITION.



Chapter 16: Shinigami





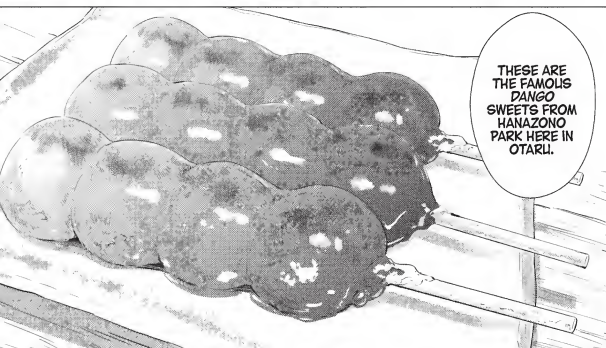
**YOUR
LIFE IS A
CANDLE...**

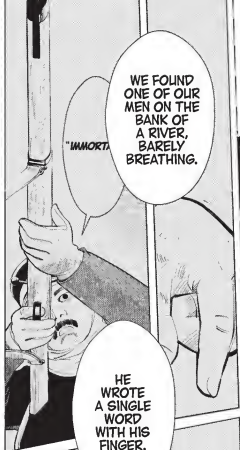
**I'M YOUR
SHINIGAMI,
YOUR GRIM
REAPER.**

**...AND I
CAN BLOW
IT OUT
ANYTIME.**

SPIT







WE FOUND
ONE OF OUR
MEN ON THE
BANK OF
A RIVER,
BARELY
BREATHING.



"IMMORTAL."



WELL,
THANKS
FOR THE
SWEETS.

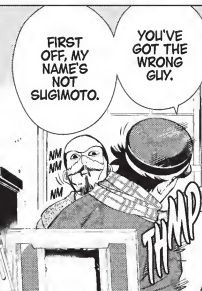


YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
DID THAT
TO PRIVATE
OGATA,
RIGHT?

**IMMORTAL
SLUGIMOTO.**



SIT DOWN.



FIRST
OFF, MY
NAME'S
NOT
SUGIMOTO.

YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
GLY.

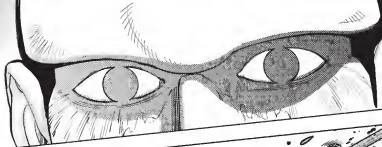


YOU'RE
DEAD.



YOU TWO
REALLY
LOOK THE
SAME,
YOU KNOW
THAT?

WHICH ONE
OF YOU HIT
ME WITH THE
RIFLE? PUT A
MARK ON YOUR
FOREHEAD OR
SOMETHING,
SHEESH.



ALTHOUGH
HE WAS
RATHER
FAR AWAY...

I ONCE SAW
IMMORTAL
SLIGIMOTO
BACK IN
PORT
ARTHUR.



I
COULDN'T
TAKE MY
EYES AWAY
FROM HIM
SLASHING
HIS WAY
ACROSS
THE
BATTLEFIELD
LIKE HE WAS
THE DEVIL
HIMSELF.



I WAS IN
THE 2ND
DIVISION.
WE NEVER
EVEN
WENT
TO PORT
ARTHUR.

LIKE I
SAID, YOU
GOT THE
WRONG
GUY.



I WAS SURE
OF IT WHEN
I SAW YOU
FIGHTING IN
FRONT OF
THE SOBA
RESTAURANT.

THAT
MAN I
SAW
BACK
THEN...
IT WAS
YOU.

RUB RUB

BECAUSE
IN YOUR
POSSESSION
WAS ONE
OF THE
TATTOOED
SKINS THAT
POINT TO THE
LOCATION OF
THE HIDDEN
GOLD...

AND
WHY DID
PRIVATE
OGATA
RUN INTO
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO
IN THE FIRST
PLACE?

YA

INK

...AND YOU
WERE HOPING
TO ESCAPE
BEFORE I
ARRIVED
AT THAT
CONCLUSION.

WHERE
DID YOU
HIDE
THEM?

PSST
PSST

PSST
PSST

YOU
HAVE THE
TATTOOED
SKINS,
RIGHT?

HEH!

OH, A SHELL
BLEW AWAY
A SMALL
PART OF
MY BRAIN.

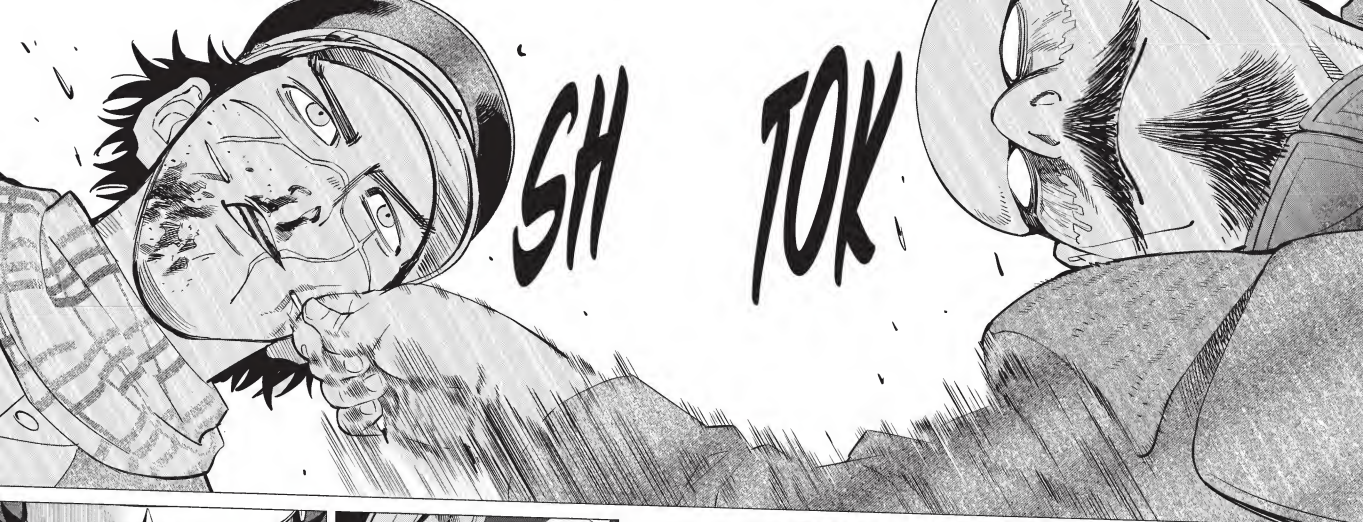
HA
HA
HA

YOU CAN
EVEN LOOK
UP MY ASS
IF YOU WANT.
I'VE GOT
NOTHING
TO HIDE.

GUYS...
IS YOUR
COMMANDER
ALL RIGHT IN
THE HEAD?

GOLD?
TATTOOS? I
DON'T HAVE THE
SLIGHTEST CLUE
WHAT YOU'RE
YAMMERING ON
ABOUT. YOU'VE
ALREADY GONE
THROUGH MY
BELONGINGS,
RIGHT?

HA
HA
HA
HA



JUST AS
I THOUGHT.
YOU
REALLY ARE
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO.



YOU
DIDN'T
EVEN
BLINK.

YOU'RE
ONE HELL
OF A
MAN.





...I'LL
BITE AND
CHEW
THAT
CANDLE
DOWN TO
A NUB IF I
HAVE TO!

EVEN IF YOU
ARE INDEED
IMMORTAL,
AND YOUR
CANDLE
IMPOSSIBLE
TO
EXTINGUISH...

BUT
KNOW
THIS...

K L A K
K L A K
K L A K
K L A K

K L A K







THE GOLD IS
FOR MILITARY
EXPENDITURES.

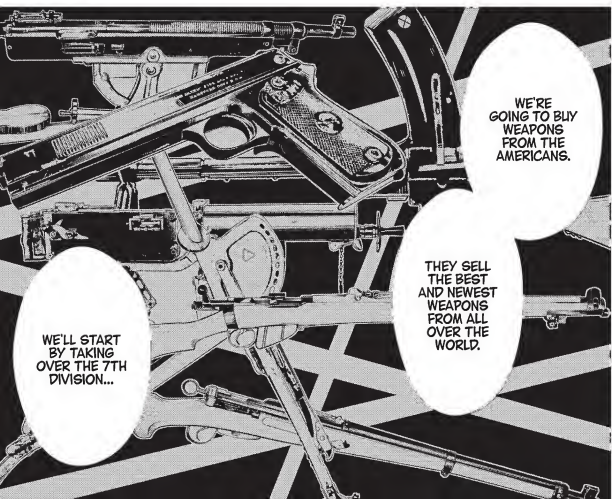
THE SMALL
AMOUNT OF
GUNS AND
AMMUNITION WE
STOLE FROM
ASAHIKAWA
ISN'T NEARLY
ENOUGH.



EVEN
LESS
THAN A
HUNDRED
IS STILL AN
AWFUL LOT
TO SPLIT
THE GOLD
WITH,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



WHAT ON
EARTH
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO DO?



WE'RE
GOING TO BUY
WEAPONS
FROM THE
AMERICANS.

WE'LL START
BY TAKING
OVER THE 7TH
DIVISION...

THEY SELL
THE BEST
AND NEWEST
WEAPONS
FROM ALL
OVER THE
WORLD.



**WE'LL
TAKE OVER
ALL OF
HOKKAIDO.**

THEN WE'LL
TAKE OVER
THE PORTS
VITAL TO THE
SHIPMENT OF
RESOURCES
FROM
HOKKAIDO TO
THE REST OF
JAPAN.



WOULDN'T
YOU SAY
WE'VE LOST
MORE THAN
ANYTHING
WE'VE
GAINED?

**WHAT
DID WE
GAIN?**

ONCE WE
WERE HEROES
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD,
BUT AFTER WE
CAME HOME,
ALL THAT
AWAITED US
WAS A LIFE OF
VAGRANCY.



LET US FIGHT
TOGETHER!

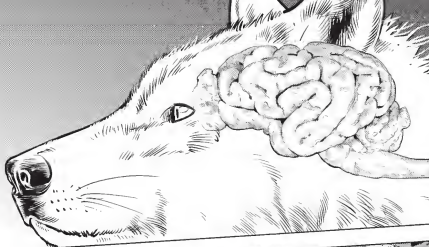
I NEED A
COURAGEOUS,
EFFECTIVE
SOLDIER
LIKE YOU.



THEN...
LET'S
START
CHEWING
THAT
CANDLE.

NOT IN A
MILLION
YEARS.

THK



A WOLF'S
BRAIN-TO-BODY
MASS RATIO IS
30 PERCENT
GREATER THAN
A DOG'S, AND
THIS EXTRA
BRAINPOWER
IS PUT TO
GOOD USE.



THEY ARE ABLE
TO PINPOINT THEIR
PREY SEVERAL
KILOMETERS
AWAY BY SIFTING
THROUGH
QUADRILLIONS OF
PARTICLES
IN THE AIR.

THEY RAISE
THEIR
SNOUTS
HIGH AND
SNIFF
THE AIR.

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

Chapter 17: Trackers.



BUT FOR
SCENTS SUCH AS
AMMONIA
AND ACETIC
ACID, BOTH OF WHICH
NATURALLY
OCCUR
IN THE
BODIES OF
PREY...

...THEIR
SENSE OF
SMELL IS
EXTRA-
ORDINARY.

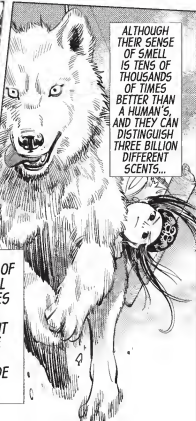
SNUFF
SNUFF



THUNK

THUNK

...THEIR SENSE OF
SMELL IS DULL
WHEN IT COMES
TO OBJECTS
NOT IMPORTANT
TO THE WOLF,
LIKE PLANTS
AND MAN-MADE
OBJECTS.

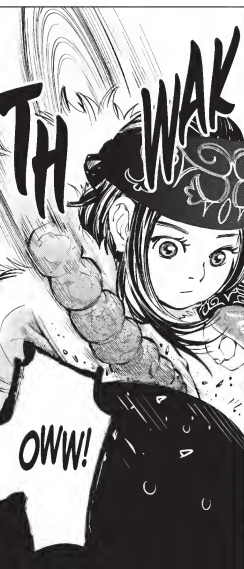


ALTHOUGH
THEIR SENSE
OF SMELL
IS TENS OF
THOUSANDS
OF TIMES
BETTER THAN
A HUMAN'S,
AND THEY CAN
DISTINGUISH
THREE BILLION
DIFFERENT
SCENTS...



Chapter 17: Trackers

THE
HORKEW-
KAMUY
IS THE
WORLD'S
GREATEST
TRACKER!



HUH?

CINO-
YETAT
ROLLED
BIRCH
BARK
USED
AS A
TORCH.

SHWA

THAT'S
ESCAPE
KING! AND
THE NAME'S
SHIRAIISHI
YOSHITAKE!

YOU'RE NOT
SUGIMOTO.

YOU'RE
THAT
EXCREMENT
KING...
WHAT'S
THE NAME
AGAIN?



YOU
CAN'T
EAT
HIM.

OW
OW
OW
OW
OWW!

HANGH



WAIT, YOU'RE
THAT LITTLE
AINU KID FROM
THE OTHER
DAY.



WHY
THE HELL
WOULD HE
BE HERE?!
IT'S JUST
ME!

WHERE'S
SUGIMOTO
?

RETAR
WOULD
NEVER
FOLLOW
THE
WRONG
SCENT.



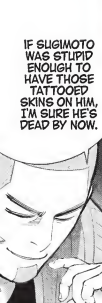
WAIT,
COULD
IT
BE...?

SOCK?



THAT'S
STRANGE...
I HAD
RETAR
FOLLOW
THE
SCENT
OF SUGI-
MOTO'S
SOCK...





IF SUGIMOTO
WAS STUPID
ENOUGH TO
HAVE THOSE
TATTOOED
SKINS ON HIM,
I'M SURE HE'S
DEAD BY NOW.

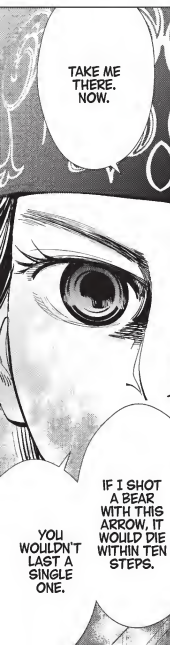
YESTERDAY
I HEARD THAT
SOME GUY
WITH A SCAR
ON HIS FACE
STARTED A
BIG FIGHT IN
THE BROTHEL
DISTRICT...

I
ALWAYS
KEEP UP
WITH THE
LOCAL GOINGS-
ON.

...AND
THAT THE
7TH DIVISION
TOOK HIM
DOWN AND
DRAGGED
HIM BACK TO
THEIR BASE.

RUMOR?
WHAT
RUMOR?

OWWWW!



TAKE ME
THERE.
NOW.

IF I SHOT
A BEAR
WITH THIS
ARROW, IT
WOULD DIE
WITHIN TEN
STEPS.

YOU
WOULDN'T
LAST A
SINGLE
ONE.



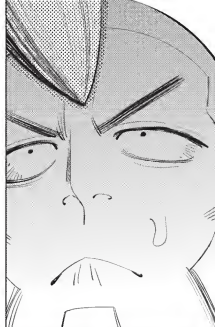


JUST A
MINUTE
THEN.
LEMMIE
GO WASH
MY FACE.



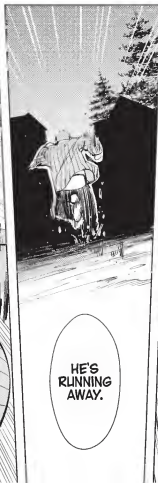
SHEESH,
YOU'RE
SUCH A
VIOLENT
LITTLE
KID.

OKAY,
OKAY.
DON'T
POINT
THAT
THING
AT ME.



SUGIMOTO...

I KNEW
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN...



HE'S
RUNNING
AWAY.



OH...



LEAP

THMP

YAH!



SH W UM



ZWO
FOO

ZWO
FOO
ZWO
FOO



HLH!

THUD

THUD

HAH!

THUD





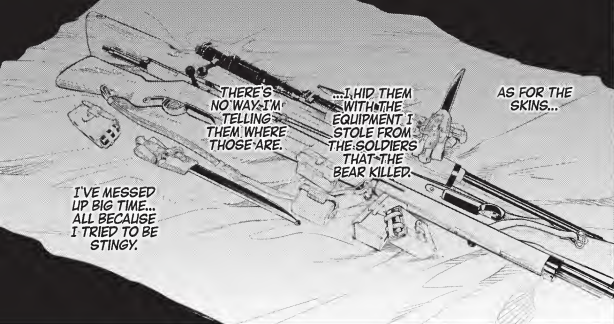
BUT YOU WILL
NEVER ESCAPE
THE TRACKING
ABILITY OF A
HORKWKAMLIY!

YOU CAN
TRY RUNNING
ALL YOU
WANT,
ESCAPE
KING.



THEY KNOW
I HAVE THE
TATTOOED
SKINS.





THERE'S
NO WAY I'M
TELLING
THEM WHERE
THOSE ARE.

...I HAD THEM
WITH THE
EQUIPMENT I
STOLE FROM
THE SOLDIERS
THAT THE
BEAR KILLED.

AS FOR THE
SKINS...

I'VE MESSED
UP BIG TIME...
ALL BECAUSE
I TRIED TO BE
STINGY.



STILL
ALIVE, YOU
DANGO-
EATING
BASTARD?

KACHAK



I HEARD
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO
COULD
RECOVER
OVERNIGHT
FROM
INJURIES THE
DOCTORS
THOUGHT
WERE
FATAL.

I DOUBLED
THE SIZE
OF HIS FACE
WITH THE
BEATING
YESTERDAY,
BUT THE
SWELLING
IS ALREADY
GOING
DOWN.

I
DUNNO,
KOHEI.

MAYBE WE
GOT THE
WRONG
GUY,
YOHEI.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS
ASSHOLE IS
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO...

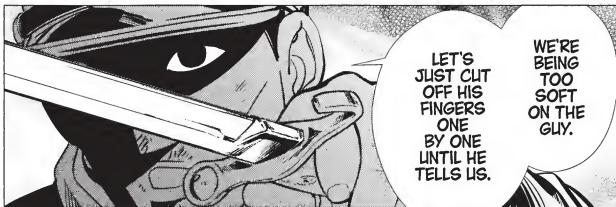


IF YOU
KILL HIM,
HE CAN'T
TELL US
WHERE HE
HID THE
TATTOOED
SKINS,
YOHEI.

WHO
KNOWS
IF HE
EVEN
HAS
THEM?



IF I CUT HIM
OPEN AND
DRAG HIS
GUTS OUT,
DO YOU THINK
HE'LL BE
HEALED BY
TOMORROW?



LET'S
JUST CUT
OFF HIS
FINGERS
ONE
BY ONE
UNTIL HE
TELLS US.

WE'RE
BEING
TOO
SOFT
ON THE
GUY.



HUH?
WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
BABBLING
ABOUT,
SHITFACE
?



I'LL GIVE
YOU A MARK
SO I CAN
TELL YOU
TWO APART.



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?



HMM
HMM
...









**I'M THE
IMMORTAL
SLIGIMOTO!**

**H
R
A
A
H!!**



(PLEASE
ALWAYS BE
THERE FOR
HER.)



(ASIRPA
MEANS MORE
TO ME THAN
ANYTHING IN
THE WORLD.)



(MR.
SUGIMOTO.)

SPECIAL THANKS:
MANAGING
EDITOR
HAKKOU OKUMA



BONUS



THIS
RIVER
OTTER
IS SO
HINNA!

HAMPH
OOMPH.

HINNA.



WHERE?

OH,
OOPS.

YOU'VE
GOT SOME
OTTER MEAT
STUCK TO
THE SIDE
OF YOUR
CHEEK!

AWW,
SUGIMOTO
...

DID IT
COME
OFF?

SLOW
DOWN
WHEN
YOU
EAT!



YOU'RE
LIKE A
MESSY
LITTLE
BABY!

HA
HA
HA!

Ainu Language Supervision • Hiroshi Nakagawa

Cooperation from • Hokkaido Ainu
Association and the Otaru City General Museum

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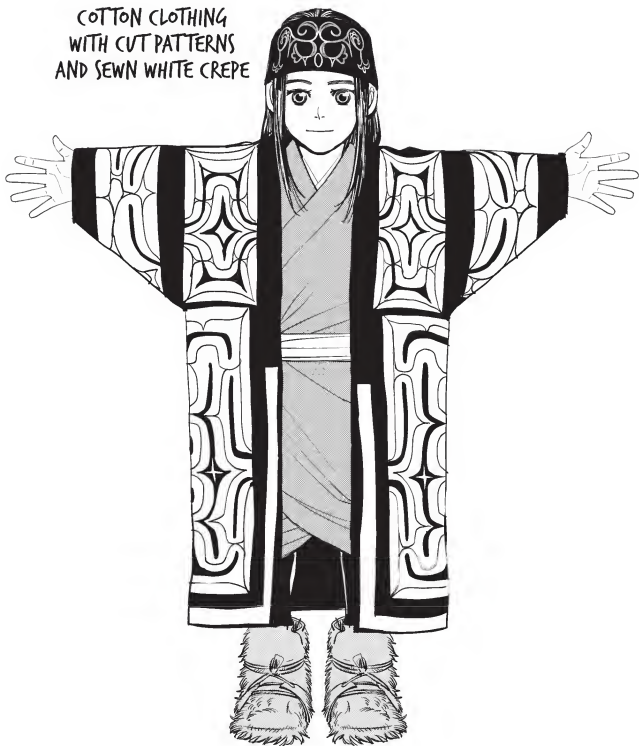
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KAPARAMIPU

COTTON CLOTHING
WITH CUT PATTERNS
AND SEWN WHITE CREPE





GOLDEN KAMUY

Volume 2 VIZ Signature Edition

Story/Art by **Satoru Noda**

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